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Big Sur Needs Wind Energy!

I am a Big Sur resident and property owner. I have also studied and worked in a career of alternative energy for over 25 yrs. I camped and hike in Big Sur for decades before moving here so I am aware of the many amazing wild areas. Yet I see wind energy as a big solution for the unsustainable economy here in Big Sur. It could provide the funds for proper management of the wild areas as well as better infrastructure like public bathrooms and parking areas and hwy pull outs or view points.

It is very obvious why Big Sur area ... at least the north end by Monterey is one of the best wind energy resource areas for California after looking at Scott Flint's great resource analysis and maps. The only other area near this potential is up by Eureka. It is a no brainer to put get more energy to the south end of the state in the shortest path near the grid paths and where most is consumed. Close proximity to the land and to the grid seem to be some of the most important criteria in an economically feasible wind project. Big Sur also happens to be in a crisis of non-sustainable economics which wind energy could greatly help if some of the wind resource proceeds are used to protect this area and help manage it better. It is a dream mitigation scenario that could work great for both marine protected areas and wild and scenic areas of Big Sur. Wind generators should be considered an iconic symbol of clean energy and environmental protections. In fact I feel the the endangered birds in this area (maybe not included yet on the maps) have a better chance with some mitigation moneys from a wind project! All levels of government are failing to plan infastructure or protect wild things around Big Sur.

Many residents will have a negative attitude of NIMBY behavior due to a big "anti government" history. The attempts to make Big Sur a park and protect it have caused these peoples to rebel and stop ANY projects including needed public restrooms, and fire preventive services, and law enforcement on county, state and federal levels. If some funds are used to properly manage the tourist industry (take over for our county) it would give way more protections for the environment and wildlife. Currently the county is controlled and dictated by what the big hotels and restaurants want since that is where the money comes from as the largest industry. Much of this money is not even seen locally, and the TOT(hotel tax) is used to fund marketing instead of funding things like planning infrastructure and enforcement of traffic laws or fire regulations.

These wild areas are in danger, and currently waiting to burn up in the next fire due to severe mismanagement and under funding in county, Sate and Federal government properties and lack of fire prevention services. Hwy 1 and many coastal roads in Big Sur are full of road side humane waste including much human feces. There are no public bath rooms for a 30 miles stretch near the top end of Big Sur which sees the majority of traffic/tourism.

Now with the Cov-19 pandemic economic devastation we need more "clean industry"

and clean energy than ever before in this area of a collapsing tourist economy. It is a chance to restructure in a more environmental and sustainable way. This is the perfect opportunity to keep the oil industry out and take away some control from our existing single industry (hotels and restaurants) and to instead allocate funds in a sustainable way. We need to start thinking about how economies can survive without constant exponential growth. This means we need to look at true sustainable options and NOT options of unlimited growth with no planning. Currently hotel and restaurants corporations make the policy and politics as a single dictating industry. It kind of reminds me of a coal company town!